Attorney Docket No.: 2003-IP-009757 U1 USA

## N THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:

James D. Vick, Jr. and Leo G. Collins

Serial No.:

10/642,801

Filed:

August 18, 2003

Entitled:

SAFETY VALVE HAVING EXTENSION

SPRING CLOSURE MECHANISM

## INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

As listed on the accompanying form PTO-SB-08, the Applicants hereby call the examiner's attention to the following information of which they are aware, in respect of which there may be a duty to disclose in accordance with 37 CFR §1.56. Copies of the listed references are enclosed with this Information Disclosure Statement.

U.S. Patents:

6,227,299 6,196,261

5,145,005

5,310,005

5,564,675

This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed under the provisions of 37 CFR §1.97(b)(3), which provides for the timely filing of an Information Disclosure Statement before the mailing of a first Office Action on the merits.

The filing of this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed as a representation that a search has been made, an admission that the information cited is, or is considered to be, material to patentability, or that no other material information exists. Further, the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed as an admission against interest in any manner.



Written notification that the enclosed documents have been considered in their entirety, by return of a copy of the enclosed form completed by the examiner, is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

KONNEKER & SMITH, P.C.

Marlin R. Smith

**Attorney for Applicants** 

Registration No. 38,310

Dated:

Sept. 9, 2003

660 North Central Expressway

Suite 230

Plano, Texas 75074

(972) 516-0030

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria,

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## INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT

(use as many sheets as necessary)

Sheet 1 of 1

| Compl te if Known      |                       |  |  |  |  |
|------------------------|-----------------------|--|--|--|--|
| Application Number     | 10/642,801            |  |  |  |  |
| Filing Date            | AUGUST 18, 2003       |  |  |  |  |
| First Named Inventor   | JAMES D. VICK, Jr.    |  |  |  |  |
| Group Art Unit         | UNASSIGNED            |  |  |  |  |
| Examiner Name          | UNASSIGNED            |  |  |  |  |
| Attorney Docket Number | 2003-IP-009757 U1 USA |  |  |  |  |

|                      |                          |               |                                            | U.S. PATENT DOCU                                | JMENTS                                                 |                                                                                    |
|----------------------|--------------------------|---------------|--------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Examiner<br>Initials | Cite<br>No. <sup>1</sup> | U.S. Patent D | Cocument Kind Code <sup>2</sup> (if known) | Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document | Date of Publication of<br>Cited Document<br>MM-DD-YYYY | Pages, Columns, Lines,<br>Where Relevant<br>Passages or Relevant<br>Figures Appear |
|                      |                          | 6,227,299     |                                            | DENNISTOUN                                      | 05-08-01                                               |                                                                                    |
|                      |                          | 6,196,261     |                                            | DENNISTOUN                                      | 03-06-01                                               |                                                                                    |
|                      |                          | 5,145,005     |                                            | DOLLISON                                        | 09-08-92                                               |                                                                                    |
|                      |                          | 5,310,005     |                                            | DOLLISON                                        | 05-10-94                                               |                                                                                    |
|                      |                          | 5,564,675     |                                            | HILL, Jr. et al.                                | 10-15-96                                               |                                                                                    |
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|                       | FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS |                                                  |                     |                                      |                             |                              |                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
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| Examiner<br>Initials* | Cite 1                   | Foreign Patent Document                          |                     |                                      | Name of Patentee or         | Date of Publication of       | Pages, Columns, Lines,                                   | Т                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|                       |                          | Office <sup>3</sup>                              | Number <sup>4</sup> | Kind Code <sup>5</sup><br>(if known) | Applicant of Cited Document | Cited Document<br>MM-DD-YYYY | Where Relevant<br>Passages or Relevant<br>Figures Appear | Te                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
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| Examiner  | Date           |
|-----------|----------------|
| Signature | <br>Considered |
|           |                |

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<sup>\*</sup>EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Unique citation designation number. <sup>2</sup> See attached Kinds of U.S. Patent Documents. <sup>3</sup> Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). <sup>4</sup> For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. <sup>5</sup> Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. <sup>6</sup> Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.